AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A bacterial or yeast transformant into which has been incorporated DNA for coding a foreign protein having lactate dehydrogenase activity and pyruvic acid substrate affinity that equals or exceeds the pyruvic acid substrate affinity of the pyruvate decarboxylase inherent in the host organism,

wherein the DNA for coding the aforementioned foreign protein has been incorporated such that it is under the control of the genome promoter of the pyruvate decarboxylase gene on the host chromosome, or such that it is under the control of a structural and functional homologue of the genome promoter of the pyruvate decarboxylase gene, which replaces the genome promoter of the pyruvate decarboxylase gene on the host chromosome, and wherein the pyruvate decarboxylase gene on the host chromosome is replaced with the DNA for coding the foreign protein having lactate dehydrogenase activity.

2. (Previously Presented) The transformant according to Claim 1, wherein the aforementioned foreign protein is a bovine-derived lactate dehydrogenase or its homologue.

3. (Previously Presented) The transformant according to Claim 1, wherein the aforementioned foreign protein is a protein comprised of the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:1 or its homologue.

4. (Previously Presented) The transformant according to Claim 3, wherein the aforementioned foreign protein is coded by the DNA sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 3.

5. (Previously Presented) The transformant according to Claim 4, having the DNA sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:4 as the DNA sequence for coding the aforementioned foreign protein.

6. (Previously Presented) The transformant according to any of Claims 1 through 5, wherein the aforementioned host organism belongs to the Saccharomyces family.

7. (Previously Presented) The transformant according to any of Claims 1 through 5, wherein the aforementioned host organism is Saccharomyces cerevisiae.

8-15. (Cancelled).

16. (Currently Amended) A transformant of the Saccharomyces family into which the DNA for coding a bovine-derived lactate dehydrogenase or its homologue has been incorporated such that the DNA is under the control of a genome promoter of the pyruvate decarboxylase 1 gene on the host chromosome of the Saccharomyces family, or such that the DNA is under the control of a structural and functional homologue of the genome promoter of the pyruvate decarboxylase gene, which replaces the genome promoter of the pyruvate decarboxylase gene on the host chromosome, and wherein the ~~structural gene of the~~ pyruvate decarboxylase 1 gene on the host chromosome has

been ~~destroyed~~ replaced with the DNA for coding a bovine-derived lactate dehydrogenase or its homologue.

17. (Previously Presented) The transformant according to Claim 16, wherein the aforementioned host is Saccharomyces cerevisiae.

18. (Previously Presented) A lactic acid manufacturing method comprising a process for culturing the transformant described in Claim 1, and

a process for separating lactic acid from the cultured product obtained in said process for culturing the transformant described in claim 1.

19. (Cancelled).